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Institute and the East India Marine Society, and the Director of the Museum (F. W. Putnam) gives a description and plans of the arrangement of the Hall and cases, and of the arrangement of the different classes of specimens both on the floor and in the galleries. The report of the proceedings of the trustees is followed by a report of the Council, containing reports of the Director and Curators, with an appendix, entitled "List of Hymenopterous and Lepidopterous Insects collected by the Smithsonian Expedition to South America, under Prof. James Orton, by A. S. Packard, jr." The Formicidæ enumerated are named by Mr. Edward Norton. Mr. E. S. Morse, in the appendix to his report on the condition of the Mollusca, describes *Actinobolus* (Cyclocardia) *Novangliæ* as an Essex county shell, which he separates from *Cardita borealis*, and illustrates the difference by wood cuts. There is also appended a report by Mr. J. A. McNeil on his expedition to Central America, and the Director and Curators report a proposed plan of operations for the Academy, (prepared by Mr. A. Hyatt), in which is suggested a Survey of the Physical and Natural History of Essex County. The following votes by the Council are recorded:

Voted, "That in labelling the collections all nouns used as specific names, and specific names when derived from proper names shall be written with capital initial letters, and also, that the same rule shall obtain in the official publications of the Academy." It was also further voted, "that in labelling the collections, the name of the person who first united the generic and specific appellations shall be given as the authority for the name, and that when the name of the original describer of the species is given, it shall be in parenthesis."

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

BOTANY.

FLOWERING OF POSOQUERIA.—In the October number of the *NATURALIST* (1868), was given on page 437, and following, an account of the phenomena displayed in flowering by a species of *Posoqueria* in the Botanic Garden here; and a comparison of them with similar ones exhibited by a species of the same genus as witnessed and described by Mr. Fritz Müller, in the island of Santa Catarina on the Coast of Brazil. I felt convinced then, and am so still, that we had the same plant in view. Not the slightest essential difference can be discovered between our plant and the figures of his. I stated—doubtfully, it is true, because my experiments had not been so numerous as his, and because I had made a slight omission of one particular as conducted by him—that I thought he was mistaken in his view of the mechanism of the phenomenon. The plant is now in flower, and has given me the opportunity to test the irritability, if such there be, at the point indicated by him. I faithfully tickled the upper filaments at the curvature without the least effect, except in one instance, when the anther mass burst asunder during the experiment. But it might have been near the time when they explode in

the progress of the flower from expansion towards decay, as they always do sooner or later, whether through the aid of an insect or not. I feel perfectly convinced that the titillation, by the legs of small or even large insects, of the filaments is not *the* mode of effecting the explosion of the anther mass. On the other hand *abundant* experiments have shown that a slight pressure upon this mass *is* effectual, and uniformly so to the diffusion of the pollen.

In a short time we shall have more flowers, and we would be pleased to show it to any who take an interest in such phenomena; and we will be more than pleased if any one skilful in such matters will make a thorough anatomical examination of the mechanism by which it is effected.
—CHARLES WRIGHT.

A WHITE ARETHUSA.—June 6th, '69, a friend sent me from Plymouth, Mass., hundreds of the *Arethusa bulbosa* in blossom; among them was a pure *white one*. The specimen, which was an unusually fine one, was found growing in the open sunshine in a swamp covered for an acre in extent with the usual high-colored ones. I myself found the same freak of nature at Lexington last year, and carried the plant to Dr. Gray, who told me it was the first *white Arethusa* he had ever seen, though he often met albinos of other families of plants on his botanical rambles.—C. A. B., Cambridge, Mass.

ABNORMAL FORMS OF PLANTS.—As much enquiry has of late been directed to variation in plants, particularly in those growing in a wild state, removed from any influence of cultivation, I would contribute from my own observations the following facts on the subject:

A remarkable form of *Fragaria Virginiana* var. *Illinoensis* Gray, was found by me last summer, in abundance, in two localities on Lake Superior, remote from culture. The petals had changed, or were partially altered to stamens, in most instances the transformation being complete. The singularity of the plant was apparent at a glance. This is an interesting case for a Darwinian, as it would appear that this plant, not satisfied with the variation it had previously accomplished, was still demonstrating its inclination to progress! I inclose a specimen. A strange form of *Viola blanda* Willd., which I found growing on wooded mountain slopes, was of unusually large size, the great reniform leaves were matted with dense hair, which also clothed the petioles, peduncles, etc. A variety of *V. Selkirkii* (Pursh) Goldie, having the leaves less hairy, and with a pale grayish blue corolla, unmarked with purple streaks and with more white than usual, grew not unfrequently with the ordinary form in open woods. *Trifolium repens* Linn., flourished in open patches on mountain slopes, having its leaves often from four to six-foliate. This was casting the four-leaved shamrock into the shade. Deep in the forest I encountered *Mitchella repens* Linn., with, in many cases, its corolla six to seven-lobed. I also discovered a single instance of *Botrychium Virginicum* Swartz., with a second perfect though smaller fertile frond rising on an independent stalk from the centre of the largest primary division of

its sterile frond. The smallest divisions of the sterile frond were, a few of them, changed to fertile clusters. In this connection I would state that a smaller, delicate form of *B. lanceolatum* Angström, having the sterile segment less dissected, appears to me a decided variety. I have collected both forms on Lake Superior.

The remarks in the February number on *Onoclea sensibilis* var. *obtusilobata* Torr., lead me to say that this variety was found by me some seasons ago on the banks of the Bloody Run, Detroit. To my observation it is quite rare. Mr. Crittenden's plant does not seem to me to differ essentially from mine, in which some of the segments of the pinnæ are much contracted and revolute, though most of them preserve the foliaceous character, particularly at and towards the summit of the frond. Intermediate states and partially developed forms would naturally be expected.

To the white varieties, or albinos, which I have already noticed, I would add the following, since contributed to my list: *Cirsium muticum* Michx., abundant in 1868, and the rare *Arethusa bulbosa* Linn., and *Calopogon pulchellus* R. Brown, in former years.—HENRY GILLMAN, *Detroit*.

DOUBLE THALICTRUM ANEMONOIDES.—Enclosed is the photograph of a double flower of the *Thalictrum anemonoides* Michx. I found it in the woods at "Cedar Ridge," a locality known to all readers of the NATURALIST who have been in Poughkeepsie. It was growing in the midst of other plants of the usual form of *T. anemonoides*. Every stamen and pistil was transformed, so that the flower was completely double; and both for its exceeding and exquisite beauty, and the rarity of a double natural flower, I had its picture taken.—M. M. SHATTUCK, *Poughkeepsie*.

BOTANICAL NOTES.—The mention of certain species in your botanical notes has reminded me of an individual of *Trillium erythrocarpum* gathered here, having the parts in fours, viz.: four leaves, four sepals, four petals, and eight stamens. I have never met with another, and do not know whether such variation is common or not. Also of the occurrence of *Saxifraga aizoon* and several other northern species on Kennebeckasis Bay. Altogether, we know of the occurrence in this Province and in Eastern and Northern Maine, of twelve arctic and subarctic species, sixty boreal or high northern (ranging by Lake Superior to the Arctic Circle) and sixteen western or continental species, rare or wanting in the United States, east of New York.—G. F. MATTHEWS, *St. John, N. B.*

IS THE ELDER A NATIVE PLANT?—Looking over the NATURALIST for March, 1868, I find that an enquiry has been made whether *Sambucus Canadensis* is a native plant. If the question is not already settled it may not be useless to state, even at this day, that both that and *S. pubens*, or their Western representatives, are common in Washington Territory and Oregon, and that one of them, if not both, extend as far South at least as Humboldt Bay, California, where I have seen a tree as large round as a man's thigh.—GEORGE GIBBS, *New York*.